



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#14)

The suppression of God's truth...
the power of God to save.

It's utter PRETENSION to suggest that God hasn't already revealed himself.

A CONVERSATION

UNSAVED

GOD

SAVED

THE REAL ISSUE:
IT'S OUR WILLING SUPPRESSION OF THE TRUTH.

GOD, IF YOU'RE REAL, THEN SHOW ME THAT YOU EXIST!

IF YOU DON'T MEET MY DEMANDS, I WILL CLAIM THAT YOU DON'T EXIST ... AND IT WILL BE YOUR FAULT!

I ALREADY SHOWED YOU!

AND YOU IGNORED ME.

I WILL DENY THAT YOU EXIST!

☞ **UNLESS** YOU "PROVE" YOURSELF – by meeting my requirements and doing things my way.

☞ **AT THE SAME TIME** I WILL REFUSE TO ACKNOWLEDGE that you have already revealed yourself.

GO AWAY! YOU DON'T EXIST!

I'VE CREATED A WORLD THAT REVEALS MY GLORY EVERYWHERE!

☞ IN IT, I DEMONSTRATE

- ✓ Wisdom in its design. > **ALL in a way that reveals my character!**
- ✓ Beauty in its purpose. >

☞ THROUGH IT, YOU CAN LEARN what I am like.

From the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly observed in what he made. As a result, people have no excuse.

Romans 1:20 (GW)

I HOLD IT ALL TOGETHER!

☞ I MAKE CREATION run smoothly and predictably.

> **In a way that reveals my consistent nature, and which brings me glory by its goodness!**

He holds everything together through his powerful words.

Hebrews 1:3b (GW)

☞ YOU HAVE OPPORTUNITY to join all creation in glorifying me by your praise and obedience.

For by [Jesus Christ] all things were created ... and in him all things hold together.

Col. 1:16a, 17 (NIV)

☞ I REFUSE TO see you or anything about you in the world.

I'D RATHER CLOSE MY EYES TO ALL OF THIS AND DO THINGS MY WAY!

☞ THE THINGS I DO SEE I will:

- ✓ Credit to "chance" or "natural processes."

AND ✓ Say that such things have nothing to do with you.

GO AWAY! YOU DON'T EXIST!

☞ I WILL CLAIM that YOU have nothing to do with the processes of nature, or with world events.

☞ **UNLESS** I CAN blame you for what happens (when it doesn't meet my requirements).

GO AWAY! YOU DON'T EXIST!

☞ **IF** I REALLY NEED A "GOD," I can make my own.

IN SPITE OF ALL YOUR REBELLION ...

☞ I WILL CONTINUE TO:

- ✓ Reveal my glory.

AND ✓ Be patient and kind to you.

☞ **MORE THAN THAT**, I WILL:

- ✓ Delay your punishment.

AND ✓ Give you opportunity to repent – to change the way you think and act.

Or do you despise the riches of his kindness, restraint, and patience, not recognizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?
Romans 2:4 (CSB)

I WILL GIVE YOU AN OPPORTUNITY THAT YOUR ANCESTORS NEVER HAD!

In the past, he let all nations go their own way.
Acts 14:16 (NIV)

☞ I WILL EVEN SEND YOU SPECIAL REVELATION:

- ✓ The Bible, my very words, in printed form.
- ✓ Jesus Christ, the greatest revelation of me, in human form.

☞ **SO**, WILL YOU:
Still reject me, and
Throw away this great opportunity?

... but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.
Acts 17:30b (NIV)

AS JESUS' FOLLOWERS, WE KNOW THAT A FEW PEOPLE WILL BE WILLING TO CHANGE.

☞ THEY WILL GIVE GOD THE CREDIT FOR:

- ✓ Drawing them to him.

AND ✓ Giving them a new heart and mind.

☞ THEY WILL REJOICE:

- ✓ In the opportunity to glorify God by the way they live.

AND ✓ In the day of Jesus' return, when all people on earth will joyfully glorify God.

But the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord's glory like the water covers the sea.
Habakkuk 2:14 (GW)

AS JESUS' FOLLOWERS, WE KNOW THAT MOST PEOPLE WON'T BE WILLING TO CHANGE.

FOR THOSE WHO DON'T WANT TO GLORIFY GOD:

☞ THEY WILL NOT BE FORCED to live in a place where everything gives glory to God.

☞ THEY WILL BE SENT somewhere else, where they won't hinder the expression of glory.

➤ They will be kept out of the way FOREVER.

GO AWAY! YOU DON'T EXIST!

WHY DO I KEEP SAYING THAT?

WHAT IF HE DOES EXIST?

MAYBE I SHOULD SEE WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS!

GOD IS OPENING MY EYES AND I AM CHANGING!

THIS IS AMAZING! I SEE EVIDENCE OF GOD'S GLORY EVERYWHERE!

NOW THAT GOD HAS OPENED MY EYES, THINGS ARE DIFFERENT! I AM A NEW CREATION!

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
2 Cor. 5:17 (NIV)

- ☞ TIME TO LEARN ABOUT THE WORLD!
God's glory surrounds me!
I squint my eyes, as I try to adjust to the brightness!
- ☞ TIME TO LEARN ABOUT MYSELF!
I am beginning to be a display of God's glory – though I might not look like it yet.

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
2 Cor. 3:18 (NIV)

SO MANY CHANGES THAT NEED TO TAKE PLACE IN MY THINKING!

NEW LIFE IS GROWING INSIDE OF ME!

... be transformed by the renewing of your mind, ...
Romans 12:2b (NASB)

- ☞ A LOT OF UNLEARNING the world's ways and what it teaches!
- ☞ THEN LEARNING to recognize the glory of God that surrounds me!

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.
1 Peter 2:2-3 (NIV)

GOD'S GLORY HAS BEEN HERE ALL THE TIME...

I JUST DIDN'T PAY ATTENTION!

I WANT TO SEE IT!

- ☞ IN WHAT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND...
 - UNEXPLAINABLE MYSTERY SURPRISE BEYOND COMPREHENSION "RANDOM CHANCE"
- ☞ ALSO IN WHAT I CAN!
 - PREDICTABLE DESIGN NATURAL "LAWS" BEAUTY EXPLAINABLE CAUSE-EFFECT

I SEE THE HORRIBLENESS OF SIN IN THINGS THAT DON'T MAKE SENSE!

- ☞ RANDOM MISFORTUNE, AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN AND JUDGMENT.

DEATH
UGLY
DESTRUCTION
POLLUTION
DISEASE
PAIN

- ☞ I WANT TO LEARN HOW GOD IS AT WORK EVEN IN THOSE THINGS!

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
Romans 8:28 (NASB)

I WANT TO LEARN HOW THE THINGS OF NATURE ARE A REFLECTION OF GOD'S GLORY, DESIGN, PURPOSE AND BEAUTY.

THE WORLD HAS ALWAYS TAUGHT ME THAT IT ISN'T.

- ☞ I WANT TO LEARN WHAT CREATION TEACHES about God's eternal power and divine nature – "what he is like"!
- ☞ I'VE GOT A LOT OF UNLEARNING TO DO, since the world has spent so much time telling me that nature doesn't, reveal anything about God.

... God's invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly observed in what he made.
Romans 1:20b (GW)

I AM SO GREATFUL THAT GOD HIMSELF SHOWS ME IN THE BIBLE HOW TO RECOGNIZE HIS GLORY IN CREATION!

☞ **I CAN LEARN** TO RECOGNIZE IT, by observing how people in the Bible did so! *Creation taught them in many ways!*

☞ **I CAN LEARN** from many of the Psalms!

EXAMPLE: GOD'S GLORY SEEN IN THE HEAVENS.

The **heavens** tell of the glory of God.
The **skies** display his marvelous craftsmanship.

Psalms 19:1 (NLT)

I CAN LEARN FROM THE BOOK OF JOB!

EXAMPLE:

HERE, GOD IS REMINDING US ABOUT HIS GREATNESS!

Where were you when I laid **the earth's foundation**?
Tell me, if you understand.

Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know!
Who stretched a measuring line across it?

On what were its footings set,
or who laid its cornerstone—
while the morning stars sang together
and all the angels shouted for joy?

Job 38:4-7 (NIV)

I CAN LEARN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT!

EXAMPLE: GOD TAKES CARE OF CREATION... HE WILL TAKE CARE OF ME!

Consider **the birds of the sky**: They don't sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth more than they?

Observe how **the wildflowers of the field** grow: They don't labor or spin thread. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was adorned like one of these. If that's how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, won't he do much more for you—you of little faith?

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.

Matthew 6:26, 28b-30, 33 (CSB) – see whole passage, v. 25-34.



OBSERVE: the design, beauty, function, interrelatedness, purposefulness, cause-and-effect, and everything else that is a reflection of God's power, majesty, wisdom and glory.

CONSIDER ALSO: the horribleness of sin and its consequences – which mask the display of God's glory. (*We, the human race, must take credit for those things ... we can't blame them on God!*)

Credits

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